

6/10 (5) 030

# Morrison Farm Committee

## Gameplan

### Theme: Carry On!!

May 6, 2013

#### Background

This memo is intended to be an outline of a strategy or "gameplan" for the next phase of our Morrison Farm Committee. I am more excited than ever to pursue our goals. Over the last few weeks since our midnight hour falling short of our goal, a few dozen people have talked to me and encourage us to "keep going", "don't quit", "this is too important to let die" and "thank you for working so hard for our future".

So, with those emotions, I hope that our theme for the next phase will be "Carry On!!!"

#### A Few Observations about the Vote

1. Just in case you don't remember, we did not win at Town Meeting.
2. But, we did get a majority (about 77 votes to 66 against), just not the 2/3 vote we needed.
3. In a weird sense, I almost wish we had lost 100-0 or something, because then the message would have been clear.
4. I believe if the vote had been at 8:15pm instead of 11:15, we would have won.
5. I believe if the vote had been taken with the other appropriation articles, we would have won.
6. So this is very much a mixed result.
7. On the negative side, only 77 people cared enough to come out and stay around to vote at 11:15pm. If people don't care enough to sit around for a few hours, why are we working days, weeks, months and years?

#### A Few Basic Observations about the Plan

1. We all knew that the Plan was very ambitious, but many of us wanted to make sure we came in with that "complete thought".
2. Everyone I talk with said that we lost because we wanted to build the Community Gathering space and, once that was decided, then the constraints stirred up opposition.
3. Nearly 100% suggested something like "why don't you come back with the rest of the plan?"
4. In other words:
  - a. Delete the Morrison Nature & History Center from the plan
  - b. Leave the barn
  - c. Do the rest (with some debate about the amount of parking, if you don't have the MN&HC)

#### My Suggested Gameplan

So, based on these facts and observations, I suggest the following:

1. Let people know that we are undeterred, but that we have “heard”.
2. Drop the Morrison Nature & History Center from the plan, but go ahead with the rest (with some minor adjustments). We will call this the “Small Plan”.
3. Re-balance the Morrison Farm Committee and the Friends of Morrison Farm so that MFC can do all the heavy lifting within the Town bureaucracy, while the FOMF can do the long term visioning, working the way normal people work within a community: communicating, work-sharing, brainstorming, all using the social and project management tools that businesses, organizations and individuals use every day.
4. Since the vast majority of people, including several opponents at Town meeting, say they support the Small Plan, determine if the BoS and the CPC might be willing to have a Special Town Meeting in September, so we don’t have to waste a whole year.
5. Contemporaneously, the Friends of Morrison Farm will develop a long term vision focused on the year 2025. The plan would include
  - a. Linking all of the assets of Morrison to the larger historical, recreational and natural assets of our Town.
  - b. Connecting to the BFRT;
  - c. Building on the concept of “Life Along the Nashoba”.
  - d. Creating the historical story of Acton along Concord Road up to Town Center
  - e. Preparing for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our country.

### **Summary**

1. We have heard the views of the people.
2. We will plan to bring back a smaller plan, consistent with those views.
3. We will drop the community building, and leave the barn as is.
4. We would like to do this at a Special Town Meeting in the Fall.
5. In the meantime, we will re-mix and energize the Friends of Morrison Farm to keep focused on the long term improvement of Morrison Farm and its connections to the history, nature and recreational assets of our wonderful Town of Acton.

### **Carry On!!!!**

Submitted by: William C. Mullin, Chair, Morrison Farm Committee

4/10 (5)

**Christine Joyce**

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**From:** Janet K Adachi [jkajeg@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 8:59 AM  
**To:** Christine Joyce  
**Subject:** BOS - 6/10 packet - MFC current members

Christine,

Would you add this e-mail to the packet? Thanks. Janet

Janet K. Adachi  
[jkajeg@msn.com](mailto:jkajeg@msn.com)

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**From:** [eszkaradek@acton-ma.gov](mailto:eszkaradek@acton-ma.gov)  
**To:** [cjoyce@acton-ma.gov](mailto:cjoyce@acton-ma.gov)  
**CC:** [jkajeg@msn.com](mailto:jkajeg@msn.com)  
**Date:** Fri, 24 May 2013 09:48:36 -0400  
**Subject:** RE: MFC - current members/resignations

William Mullin - Chair  
Charles D. Aaronson  
William Klauer - resigned 10-23-12  
Andrew Magee  
Doug Tindal  
Charles E. Orcutt resigned 4-25-13  
Katherine Cunkleman  
Walter Foster  
Linda McElroy resigned 1-29-13  
Peter Grover  
Ann Chang  
Paulina Knibbe - resigned 8-16-12

*Regards,  
Eva K. Szkaradek  
Town Clerk  
472 Main St.  
Town of Acton  
978-929-6620  
978-929-6340 - Fax*

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**From:** Christine Joyce  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2013 8:16 AM  
**To:** Eva Szkaradek  
**Cc:** Janet Adachi  
**Subject:** FW: MFC - current members/resignations